REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated claims 7, 21-24 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 7 and 27 as independent claims. Claims 1, 5, 6, 25 and 26 have been canceled. The dependency of the remaining claims has been amended to depend either directly or indirectly on claim 7.

In view of the above, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully urged. It should be noted, however, that the cancellation of claims in the present application is not an admission by applicants that the rejections set forth in the Office Action are proper.

The period for response having expired on March 27, 2002, applicants hereby petition for a two month extension of time. A check in the amount of the extension fee is enclosed. The Commissioner, however, is authorized to charge Deposit Account 18-2056 any deficiency in fees or any additional fees required to maintain the pendency of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 05/28/02

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AMENDED CLAIM APPENDIX

2. (Amended) A vehicle monitoring system as claimed in claim [1] 7, further comprising dispatch monitoring means for accessing the automatic status information stored in the delivery state database and displaying the automatic status information to provide a visual indication of the identity of the delivery vehicle, the position of the delivery vehicle and the delivery state of the delivery vehicle.

7. (Amended) A vehicle monitoring system [as claimed in claim 6,] that monitors the state of a plurality of vehicles, said system comprising:

at least one mobile data unit that generates automatic status information corresponding to a delivery vehicle, wherein the automatic status information includes position information and delivery state information;

a delivery state database that store the automatic status information generated by the mobile data unit;

wherein the mobile data unit includes a controller, GPS receiver coupled to the controller, and at least one vehicle condition sensor coupled to the controller, and said controller generates the automatic status information based on signals received from the GPS receiver and the vehicle condition sensor;

wherein the controller determines the delivery state information based on the signal received from the vehicle condition sensor; and

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wherein the vehicle condition sensor generates a mixing barrel status signal indicative of a charge operation condition and a discharge operating condition of a mixing barrel, and wherein the controller determines a Begin Pour delivery state and an End Pour delivery state based on the mixing barrel status signal.

8. (Amended) A vehicle monitoring system as claimed in claim [5] 7, wherein the delivery state information includes a plurality of delivery states that define a delivery cycle, and wherein the controller determines whether a current delivery state is valid based on the delivery cycle.

10. (Amended) A vehicle monitoring system as claimed in claim [1] 7, wherein the mobile data unit includes a wireless transmitter/receiver that transmits the automatic status information from the mobile data unit to the delivery state database via wireless transmission device coupled to the deliver state database.

16. (Amended) A vehicle monitoring system as claimed in claim [5] 7, wherein hot zone data corresponding to geographic zone around at least one of a loading terminal and a delivery site is supplied to the mobile data unit, and wherein the controller determines the delivery state information based on the hot zone data.

27. (Amended) A method of providing automatic status information [as claimed in claim 26,] for a plurality of delivery vehicles, wherein the automatic status information includes position information and delivery state information, said method comprising:

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determining position information corresponding to each of the delivery vehicles using a GPS data;

determining delivery state information corresponding to each of the delivery vehicles using at least one vehicle condition sensor provided on each of the delivery vehicles;

transmitting the position information and delivery state information to a delivery state database via a wireless transmission network; and

defining a plurality of delivery states corresponding to a delivery cycle, wherein the delivery state information comprises the delivery states;

wherein the validity of a current delivery state is determined based on whether a prerequisite deliver state has occurred; and

wherein the delivery state include a Begin Pour delivery state and an End Pour delivery state associated with the delivery of ready-mix concrete.

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